**Heroine Takes on Federal Bureaucracy and Shows How to Beat It in New Novel by DC Insider**

Washington, DC, Month, Year — Have you ever wondered why the federal government struggles to get things done even though they have employees who are literally willing to take a bullet for the mission of their organization? How can agencies that landed a man on the moon, eradicated polio, and built the interstate highway system be among the same ones who produced a $600 hammer, racked up over $17 trillion in debt, and built a bridge to nowhere? In *Draining the Swamp*, the debut novel from Ed Gibney, a determined heroine shows us the answer to these questions when we see what’s really going on behind the scenes beneath a political surface that grabs all the headlines but is actually only a small part of the story.

Author Ed Gibney worked in the business world for several years and got his MBA from the University of Michigan before going to work in the federal government. Once there, he started a Special Advisor Program at the US Secret Service to assist the director and his leadership team with projects to make the organization run more efficiently. Gibney had worked in a similar program at the FBI and was passionate about spreading its benefits to other agencies in the federal government. After moving on to the Department of Homeland Security though and finding the progress too slow, he decided to share what he had learned—as well as what his wife had learned as an intern for a senator and several non-profits—in the form of a novel. “Great stories are the best way we have to share information,” says Gibney. “Novels have had a huge impact on me as a reader and I’ve always wanted to do the same for others as a writer.”

It’s time someone changed DC. That’s the driving force behind *Draining the Swamp*’s heroine Justine Swensen when she sets off as a young idealist to go and work for a senator. She has the resume and passion to take her from the lowest staff positions in the legislative branch all the way to upper management posts in executive branch agencies and departments. She gets to exert pressure from inside the Executive Office of the President, and as an external consultant and non-profit leader. She meets with journalists, think tanks, and lobbyists before running for higher political offices herself. All along the way, she meets funny, sad, inspiring, and infuriating bureaucrats, who are usually trapped in their own catch-22s, but only after 30 years of tilting at these windmills and navigating Kafkaesque mazes does Justine finally learn the moral of her own story. Fortunately for us, it’s a moral that may just help change things after all. Taking inspiration from the latest findings in the fields of change management and political philosophy, *Draining the Swamp* will educate other idealists while inspiring them to stick to their quests and maybe even recruit a few others to the cause. To change DC, you have to know how it works first, and *Draining the Swamp* imparts this knowledge to readers while they cheer on its heroine through each and every turn of her fascinating career.

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